



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:41 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Streeter.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2012-0320 Proclamation Honoring Barbara Strother

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Morton.

2012-0328 Proclamation Recognizing Groton Regency Center's Veterans' Wall

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING GROTON REGENCY CENTER'S VETERANS' WALL

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Streeter.

Letter From Governor Malloy

A letter from Governor Malloy regarding the State and community's continued investment in the SubBase and its surrounding area was read by Mayor Somers.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0325 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 20, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2011-0195 Efficiency of Town and Board of Education Services

- 2012-0072 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Legislative Agenda
- 2012-0073 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Groton Concerning Highway CIP Projects
- 2012-0288 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Adoption of 2013 Town Council Group II Regular Meeting Schedule
- 2012-0285 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
Adoption of 2013 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule
- 2012-0286 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Adoption of 2013 Town Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule
- 2012-0287 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Adoption of 2013 Town Council Group I Regular Meeting Schedule
- 2012-0316 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Trails Coordinating Committee Modification
- 2012-0323 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Economic Development Specialist Job Description
- 2012-0324 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Library Associate Job Description

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Antipas attended the Boating Advisory Board meeting and toured the Animal Shelter facility.

Councilor Schmidt received calls concerning whether the Town will conduct a nationwide search for the Economic Development Specialist position. She attended a Children First Groton meeting and the retirement party for Economic Development Specialist Barbara Strother.

Councilor Flax noted that on December 10, 2012, John Kelley memorabilia will be added to a sports exhibit at Foxwoods Resort Casino at which Boston Marathon winner Bill Rodgers will be a guest speaker. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the John Kelley Memorial Fund.

Mayor Somers received emails regarding the budget process. Invitations were received for the holiday party at Governor Malloy's residence and the Mashantucket tribal holiday party.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next meeting of the RTM will be held on December 12, 2012.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk stated that the annual book sale at the Groton Public Library will be held on December 7, 2012. She noted that an upgrade to the Land Records indexing software, Resolution3, has been installed. Ms. Moukawsher remarked that she has been contacted by a

representative of Love Gov." Love Gov'is similar to FaceBook, but its mission is to get people to love local government rather than hate it.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager noted that Group I will meet December 18, 2012. By consensus, the Council agreed to hold a special Groton Resource Recovery Authority meeting on December 18, 2012, as well. Mr. Oefinger noted that a comprehensive solicitation to hire an Economic Development Specialist will be conducted.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers stated that the Committee of the Whole discussed the Board of Education contract and met with State legislators. At the meeting with State legislators, discussion included minimum budget requirements for education; the Mystic Oral School property; disposition of State properties; unfunded mandates; the regulatory atmosphere in the State; school redistricting; and a follow-up meeting scheduled for January 7, 2013.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Streeter recommended tabling the Ethics Ordinance until the Council of Governments (CoG) is further along with developing its Regional Ethics Commission and Code of Ethics.

Councilor Antipas noted that a meeting with Mike Carey is scheduled for December 17, 2012, to go over Groton's draft ethics document.

It was noted that CoG is just beginning to develop its ethics code. Discussion ensued whether to continue working on Groton's ethics document or wait to see what CoG generates.

The Town Manager remarked that each town decides whether to utilize the Regional Code of Ethics or develop its own. Since the Ethics Task Force is holding a meeting on December 17th, it could consider Councilor Streeter's suggestion, then the item could be placed on a future

Committee of the Whole agenda for the Council to determine its course of action.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve Resolutions 2012-0285 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule, 2012-0286 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule, and 2012-0287 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Group I Regular Meeting Schedule (Personnel Committee) was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti that this matter be Adopted. Councilor Johnson objected to the start time of the Group I (Personnel Committee) meeting. The motion carried with 8 In Favor, 1 Opposed (Johnson).

2012-0285 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2013 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council regular meeting schedule for 2013 as follows:

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Tuesday April 2, 2013

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Monday, November 4, 2013

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except in January because of the New Year's Day Holiday and November because of Election Day.

Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Johnson

2012-0286

Adoption of 2013 Town Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2013 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2013 as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Monday, December 23, 2013

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month, except in December because of Christmas Eve.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Johnson

2012-0287 Adoption of 2013 Town Council Group I Regular Meeting Schedule**RESOLUTION APPROVING 2013 TOWN COUNCIL PERSONNEL, RULES, AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Personnel, Rules and Appointments Committee regular meeting schedule for 2013 as follows:

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Tuesday April 2, 2013

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Monday, November 4, 2013

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the First Tuesday of each month, except in January because of the New Year's Day Holiday and November because of Election Day.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Johnson objects to the start time of this meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Johnson

2012-0316 Trails Coordinating Committee Modification**RESOLUTION MODIFYING AND RENAMING THE TRAILS COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO THE TRAILS COORDINATING TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2012 the Town Council authorized formation of the Trails Coordinating Committee consisting of 18 voting members and reporting to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee feels that the Trails Coordinating Committee would function better as a standalone temporary Task Force reporting to the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the formation of a Trails Coordinating Task Force for a period ending January 1, 2016, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force will be staffed by the Parks and Recreation Department and the membership will be as outlined in original resolution 2012-0156.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0323 Economic Development Specialist Job Description

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

WHEREAS, the job description for the non-union salaried position of Economic Development Specialist has been updated to better reflect anticipated duties and responsibilities associated with the position, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description for Economic Development Specialist.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0324 Library Associate Job Description

RESOLUTION APPROVING A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

WHEREAS, combining the two existing job descriptions of Library Associate - Technical Services and Library Associate - Children's Services into one job description would better address the anticipated needs of the Library, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description for the position of Library Associate.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider a resolution for an agreement between the Board of Education and the Groton Education Association was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

2012-0134 Board of Education Contract Negotiations

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE GROTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the agreement between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Education Association for the period September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

go to arbitration which probably would have resulted in a 9.2% increase in wages over the three-year contract. Therefore, the 7.5% wage increase over a three-year period was the best deal that could be made. The contract contains an increase in medical co-pays, an increase in cost sharing, and refinement to the contract language. A copy of the contract is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The motion carried unanimously

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant